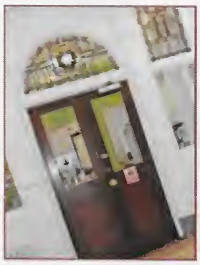

Architectural points of interest include -

- the exterior
- the prominent corner site
- the modern eclectic style with classical features
- the Doric portico domed entrance in Portland stone
- the Flemish bond red brickwork alternating with the classical entablature frieze and cornice etc
- the copper roof finials - ventilation and ornamental
- the interior
- the mosaic floor in vestibule (hall)
- the stained glass windows
- the ornate cast iron banisters

Tony McCauley

Shankill born Tony is the author of the acclaimed 'Paperboy' and it's sequel, 'Breadboy', recently published by Blackstaff Press. Tony has also worked extensively in community development both in Northern Ireland and other countries.

"When I was a boy, I visited the Shankill Road Library every week with my father. It's one of the public buildings I remember most vividly from my early childhood. When you walked up the steps and through the front door it was warm and bright and smelt of books. I can still remember the tiles and wood on the floor, the stained glass window and the librarians desk with the all important ink stamp. I can still take you to the exact location of the shelves that held all my favourite books in the 1960s and 1970s. I borrowed every 'Famous Five', every tale from Narnia, the odd Billy Bunter and every hobbit quest. My love for books began in Shankill Road Library.

I passed the library almost every day of my life when I was growing up. While so much has changed on the Shankill in the past 50 years, the library remains as one of the most attractive buildings on the Road. The Shankill Library was built in 1928, the year my father was born and it was one of his favourite places too. The building was restored recently and I was honoured to be invited to read an extract from 'Paperboy' at the re-opening ceremony last year."

Shankill Road Library

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